

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending when a Final Office Action was mailed July 2, 2004. The Final Office Action provisionally rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) and rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. By way of this amendment, Application hereby submits new Figures 2 and 3 and amends Claim 6. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

Drawings for Examiner Approval

Applicant hereby submits new Figures 2 and 3. The new figures more clearly show the details not clear in the originally filed figures. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added and the details are described and fully supported in the specification.

Provisional Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Final Office Action provisionally rejected Claims 1-20 as it appears that the Applicant did not solely invent the claimed subject matter. On May 10, 2004, Applicant submitted a correction of inventorship, a statement from the added inventor, a newly executed combined declaration of power of attorney, and consent of the assignee for the correction of inventorship. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these documents be accepted by the Examiner as being an error that occurred without deceptive intent and respectfully submits that inventorship on the subject application has been duly corrected and that the application now complies with regard to 35 U.S.C. § 102(f).

Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Final Office Action rejected Claims 1-20 as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of either Katzer, Lammers, et al., or Morini. Applicant hereby

clarifies the response to the previous Office Action in order to address the comments on pages 7-9 of the Final Office Action.

With regards to the AAPA, the previous response by the Applicant was referring to a single one of either the inboard or outboard-bearing elements. This is because each of these elements are separate bearing elements unto themselves, and in a hub assembly, there must be two of these in order to support radially opposed tie-bar journals 28. Thus, Applicant points out that *each of the bearing elements in the AAPA only includes a single elastomeric element 54 and does not include an outer race for that elastomeric element 54 that is bonded to the housing.*

Also, Katzer does not disclose *the elastomeric members primarily bonded to both inner and outer races* that allow for easy assembly by inserting the elements with the bonded races into a housing *and bonding the outer race of the elements with an inner wall of the housing.* Therefore, if Katzer was to be combined with the AAPA, there would not be a single bearing element that receives an inboard bearing element and an outboard bearing element wherein each bearing element includes an elastomeric element bonded to an outer and inner race as recited in Claims 1, 6, and 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable over the AAPA in view of Katzer.

With respect to Lammers et al. and the AAPA, Applicant submits that neither of the references teach or suggest forming inner and outer bearing elements each including elastomeric bearing elements that are bonded to inner and outer races, and secondarily bonding the outer surfaces of these two bearing elements to the inner wall of a housing.

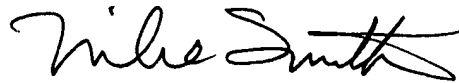
With regard to Morini, Morini fails to also overcome the deficiencies of the AAPA. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 1-20 are allowable over all the references.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the pending application are now in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the examiner has any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

10/1/04
Date of Deposit


Michelle L. Carman

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace FIGURES 2 and 3 with new FIGURES 2 and 3 that are attached. No new matter has been added.